



**COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO
DISTRICT 3**

Tennessee State Office
3354 Perimeter Hill Drive, Suite 220
Nashville, Tennessee 37211
615/331-4890

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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY JUL 18 2002
SARA KYLE, COMMISSIONER
TN PUBLIC SERVICE COMM.

July 16, 2002

Sara Kyle, Chairman
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0505

Dear Sara:

On behalf of the approximately five thousand employees represented by the Communications Workers of America in the state of Tennessee, we urge the Tennessee Regulatory Authority to act quickly to issue an order recommending approval by the FCC of BellSouth's application to enter the long distance market in our state. We are convinced BellSouth's entry into the long distance market in Tennessee is clearly in the public interest and will benefit consumers, especially residential consumers, as evidenced in other states in which SBC Communications, Verizon Communications or BellSouth now provide long distance service. Also of utmost importance to CWA is the fact that allowing BellSouth to provide long distance service will further stimulate the growth of high-skilled, quality jobs in this region.

Tennessee is behind the other states in the BellSouth region. Georgia and Louisiana were recommended for approval by the Department of Justice and have been approved by the FCC. Five additional states, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, and Mississippi, are now before the FCC with a decision to be made no later than September 18, 2002. The Public Service Commissions in the above seven states determined that BellSouth met the requirements of the Communications Act to open local markets to competition, that BellSouth's Operating Support Systems are regional, and that the performance measurements data meets the standards required. Moreover, the Florida Public Service Commission has set September 9, 2002, to vote on BellSouth's application.

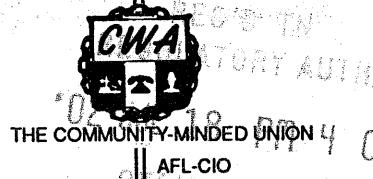
CWA is very concerned about this issue and urges that as members of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority you insure this state does not become an island. We urge you to take immediate action that will bring both the benefits of competition to consumers as well as create new jobs for the employees we represent.

Sincerely,

Doug Stearman
CWA Representative

Communications

LOCAL 3808
100 ARLINGTON AVENUE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37210
(615) 256-2345



Workers of America

July 16, 2002

Ms. Sara Kyle, Chairman
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Ms. Kyle:

Under provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, BellSouth has demonstrated well to State and Federal regulators that its local market is open to competitors. It is most critical at this time for BellSouth to obtain approval to offer Long Distance in the State of Tennessee.

Tennessee is one of the last states in the BellSouth region to receive that approval. In order to allow enough time for the ninety-day review period, BellSouth must file its application to the Federal Communications Commission no later than September 15, 2002. This time schedule is crucial in order for BellSouth to conquer approval in the 2002 calendar year.

As you know, BellSouth has announced large surpluses of employees in the first, second and third quarters of this year. Our Company is losing way too many good paying Union jobs. As President of the Communications Workers Local here in Nashville, I feel great urgency to ask for your help. It is of the utmost importance for not only you, but the entire committee as well, to act swiftly on Docket #9700309 (BellSouth Entry Into Long Distance in Tennessee).

The Long Distance market will have a huge impact on jobs in Tennessee. This business will assist in leveling the playing field for the Communications Industry in Tennessee as it has done in our other states. It has the potential of saving thousands of our jobs and possibly creating new jobs in the future.

We need your voice and influence to secure and build jobs for Tennessee.

Thank you for your time and consideration as always.

Sincerely yours,

Rick Feinstein

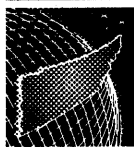
Rick Feinstein
President

RF/smc
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SARA KYLE, COMMISSIONER
TN PUBLIC SERVICE COMM.



**TENNESSEE
TOMORROW
INC.**

Preparing for the Challenges of the Future.

Tennessee Economic Development Center
333 Commerce Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37201-3300
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SARA KYLE, COMMISSIONER
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July 16, 2002

Ms. Sara Kyle, Chairman
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-0505

Dear Sara:

Congratulations on your election as Chairman of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, and we look forward to having the benefit of your continued service on the Board of Directors of Tennessee Tomorrow, Inc. I appreciate your leadership of the Authority, and the many contributions that you and the TRA staff make to the quality of life that we enjoy in Tennessee.

Thank you also for the opportunity to write to you in support of BellSouth's application to enter the long distance market. It is my understanding that BellSouth has complied with all requirements to open its local market and has earned the right to compete in offering its customers long distance service.

BellSouth has been an excellent corporate citizen in many ways, but one of the important areas is the company's investments during the '90's in the infrastructure that allowed Tennessee to become one of the first states to provide ISDN service in all areas it serves in the state. Allowing the company to enter the long distance market will encourage continued infrastructure development and capital investment in Tennessee.

Surveys have shown that Tennesseans would realize significant savings if the BellSouth region could operate in the long distance market. This is based on experiences in other states where the former Bell Company has been allowed to provide long distance service. Seven state regulatory authorities in the nine BellSouth states have recognized that the company has met the requirements outlined by Congress to handle the long distance market, and the Federal Communications Commission has approved BellSouth's application for Georgia and Louisiana. The other five applications are under consideration by the FCC.

Ms. Sara Kyle, Chairman

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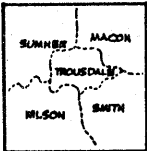
I sincerely hope that you and the Tennessee Regulatory Authority will give favorable consideration to approving BellSouth's application to enter the long distance market in Tennessee.

With kind regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. Yowell", with a stylized flourish at the end.

George L. Yowell
President



Four Lake Regional Industrial Development Authority

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July 17, 2002

Ms. Sara Kyle, Chairman
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-0505

Dear Ms. Kyle:

I am writing you this letter to encourage you to grant BellSouth the opportunity to offer long distance service in Tennessee.

BellSouth entry into long distance will result in lower overall phone bills for customers. Every day that BellSouth is forced to remain on the sidelines, Tennessee consumers lose money due to unrealized savings.

Steven Pociask's study "Competition and Consumer Benefits: A Quantitative Assessment of In-region BellSouth Long Distance Market" says Tennesseans are losing up to \$493 M a year. This has been documented independently in states where the former Bell company has been allowed to provide long distance service.

BellSouth entry into long distance will bring real competition to this industry.

Best regards,

Richard Walker
Executive Director

RW:tlc

cc: Lanie Johnson

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